

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL! 2001

WHEREAS, 28 million U.S. children live with a single working parent or two working parents, 35 percent of school-age children are left on their own after school from the time they are the age of twelve, and more than 15 million children are unsupervised from 3 to 8 p.m., critical hours in which the juvenile crime rate triples; and

WHEREAS, children in self-care or under the care of siblings experience greater fear of accidents and crime; and children without supervision are more bored, more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors and drug and alcohol use and are more often the victims of accidents and abuse; and

WHEREAS, children who regularly attend quality afterschool programs exhibit improved peer relations skills and emotional adjustment, achieve higher grades, especially in mathematics and reading, participate in more academic and enrichment opportunities, spend less time watching television, and are 50 percent less likely to use drugs and are one-third less likely to become teen parents; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Board of Education realizes that creating new opportunities to reach children during afterschool hours is critically important to student success, especially those students that are at-risk, and supports the U.S. Department of Education's and the C.S. Mott Foundation's efforts to provide quality, affordable afterschool programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Afterschool Alliance, created by the Mott/Ed partnership, and its 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative has grown from a \$1 million program to an \$846 million program serving 1.2 million children and 400,000 adults in more than 1,600 communities and 6,800 schools, and has committed more than \$100 million over seven years to support training, evaluation, promising practices, access and equity, policy, and public will; and

WHEREAS, the Afterschool Alliance has declared October 11, 2001 as *Lights On Afterschool! 2001*; and

WHEREAS, the *Lights On Afterschool! 2001* program raises national and local awareness of the importance of afterschool programming, through the support of existing programs and the creation of new programs that will reach hundreds of thousands of American children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Board of Education supports the *Lights On Afterschool! 2001* program, and encourages local school districts and community leaders to appropriately recognize that quality afterschool programs are vital to the health of our communities.

Adopted August 23, 2001

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Thomas D. Watkins, Chairman